



PROMOTING REFUGEE LIVELIHOODS IN TURKEY THROUGH FOOD ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Problem

Turkey has the largest refugee population in the world, including nearly 3 million Syrians. Unemployment and informality are prevalent, straining local resources and creating tensions between host communities and refugees.

Our Solution

Through this two-year program, CIPE seeks to support the development of mutually beneficial and sustainable livelihood solutions for Syrian refugees and their host communities in the food sector in Gaziantep and Istanbul, Turkey.

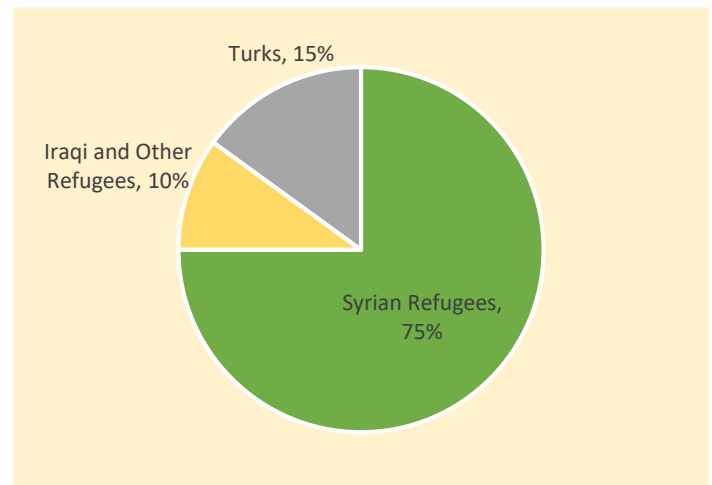
Objectives

- To lay the foundation for sustainable access to livelihood-focused food business development services among affected Turkish host communities and Syrian refugees in urban areas.
- To improve livelihoods based in the human and institutional food-based market ecosystem for planning, launching, or improving food-based enterprises.

Why the Food Sector?

The food sector is an ideal venue for Syrians to integrate into the Turkish economy and society more broadly. Food is a powerful tool for building community, and by encouraging adaptability and economic empowerment, effective development, and cross-cultural cooperation. The food sector already enjoys a competitive advantage and is ripe for growth.

Who will Benefit?



- 1,240 Direct Beneficiaries (ages 18-35)
- At least half of participants will be women
- 6,672 Indirect Beneficiaries (household members)

A Gender-Sensitive Approach



7 in 10 Syrian refugees are women and children

Syrian women are often isolated due to cultural expectations to run the household and an increased risk of harassment and assault in public spaces. Women also face pre-existing gender inequalities in Turkey that are similar to those in Syria, such as child and forced marriages, unofficial polygamy, and domestic, physical, and sexual violence. CIPE will tailor training to focus on conflict and negotiation skills often needed by female trainees.

Program Activities

Food Enterprise Centers

	Entrepreneur Incubation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hubs: Gaziantep and Istanbul • 240 entrepreneurs incubated • Co-working space and test kitchen • Specialized training • Support Services: Mentorship program and coaching; networking; formalization, registration, and legal support; access to finance; logistical and start-up support • Business plan competition: 24 awarded seed funding
	Workforce Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocational training: 32 classes, 1,000 workers • Job placement services • Follow-on support
	Gastrodiplomacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The people-to-people exchange of food culture • Bi-monthly cross-cultural exchange events
	Published Cookbook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating successes through storytelling and recipes • Generating revenue for sustainable programming

Consortium Partners

